

AKIRA

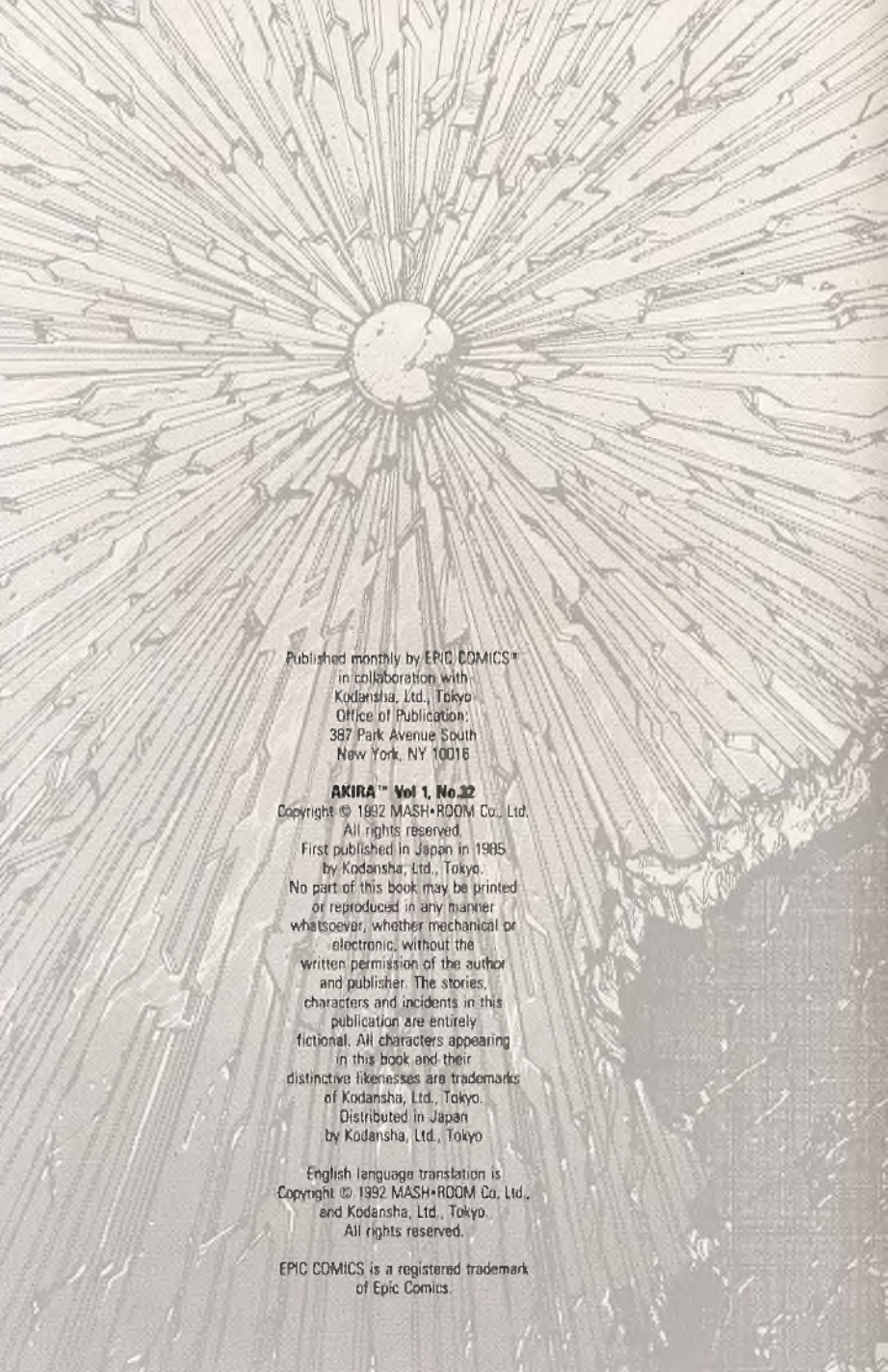
32™



EPIC COMICS™ \$3.95 • \$4.75 CAN • VOL. 1, NO. 32



KATSUHIRO OTOMO



Published monthly by EPIC COMICS™
in collaboration with
Kodansha, Ltd., Tokyo
Office of Publication:
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

AKIRA™ Vol 1, No.22

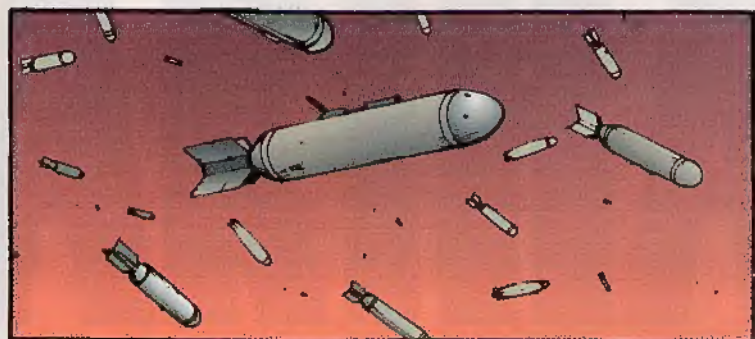
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CLASS REUNION

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 32

CLASS REUNION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is

identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — **Numbers 25** and **27**. The blind **Lady Miyako** — **Number 19** — was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's friend, but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** lost his left arm to a laser blast from the **Colonel's** military satellite **SOL**, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic replacement.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28** — **Akira** — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in a cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance scattered, and the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrol the streets.

In the western part of



Kaneda



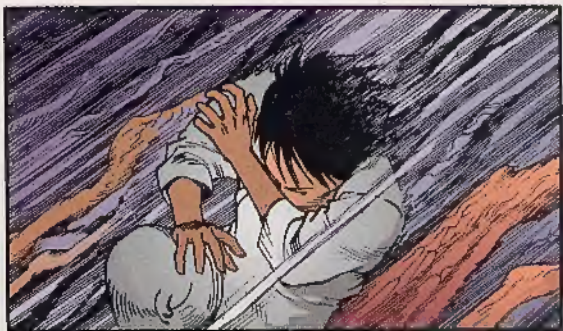
Kiyoko



Akira



Kay



Neo-Tokyo the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects. Most faithful among their numerous followers are Tetsuo's dapper, ambitious assistant assistant and his friend **Kaori**. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's **Olympic Stadium**. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees, including **Kay** and **Chiyoko**, to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal and psychically gifted monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world, but all of them except **Lieutenant**

Yamada — who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu** — are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with **Yamada** until he learns that the spy plans to assassinate **Akira** even if it means taking innocent lives. After that, **Ryu** keeps an eye on **Yamada**, trying to protect both the invader and the people of **Neo-Tokyo**.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international group of scientists studying the **Akira** phenomenon learns that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**, despite their recommendations. They are aghast to learn that, to stop **Akira**, the military is willing to destroy all of **Neo-Tokyo** and its citizens, if necessary. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore without authorization,



Kaori



The Colonel



Ryu



Stanley Simmons



hoping desperately to implement a secret plan.

Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako**,

Masaru, and **Kiyoko** convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium through whom the others could project their powers and strike as one.

Lady Miyako explains that Akira's personality has been destroyed by his power, leaving him a passive vessel, and that when Tetsuo's character is likewise eroded, he too will be beyond control. Remembering that, on a whim, **Tetsuo** recently destroyed part of the moon and set off geological cataclysms, **Kay** agrees to join them.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and a rival from his

gang days — is outraged to learn of the risk that **Miyako** has talked **Kay** into taking. He vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let **Kay** face such danger. He, **Kai** and **Joker** formulate a strategy involving most of their men as well as the state-of-the-art weapons they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot. Together, they head for the **Olympic Stadium**.

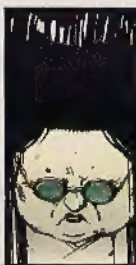
Following his huge expenditure of power, **Tetsuo** begins to lose control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing anyone who comes too close. His power has grown beyond what his body can contain and is now trying to absorb



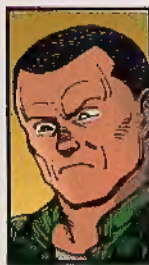
Tetsuo



Masaru



Lady Miyako



Lt. Yamada



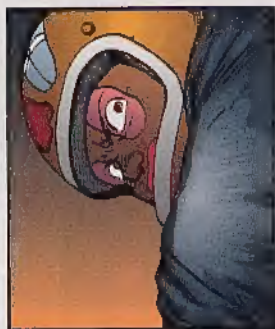
its surroundings.

Yamada and his men meet one of Tetsuo's trained psychics — the **Eggplant Man**. To their dismay, they find that he can withstand gunfire... and kill without touching. However, they are able to distract him long enough to kill him, and then eliminate Tetsuo's other trained psychics with biochemical weapons, saving their deadliest germs for use against **Tetsuo**.

Soon after, the **Colonel** also reaches the stadium, determined to kill **Tetsuo**, who he believes could become another **Akira**. He manages to fire one blast from **SOL** before outside military forces seize control of the satellite by computer. Then, **Joker** arrives on a flying platform and strikes

Tetsuo, causing him to mutate again.

Kaori, still loyally trying to find someone to help the boy she loves, learn that Tetsuo's former assistant is now planning to betray and murder his former master. As she runs to warn **Tetsuo**, the traitor shoots her in the back. **Tetsuo**, his mutations temporarily in remission, comes upon her as she dies.



Chiyoko



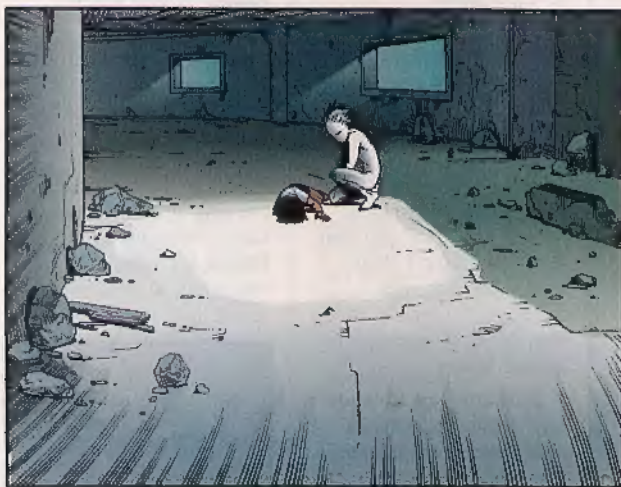
Tetsuo's Aide



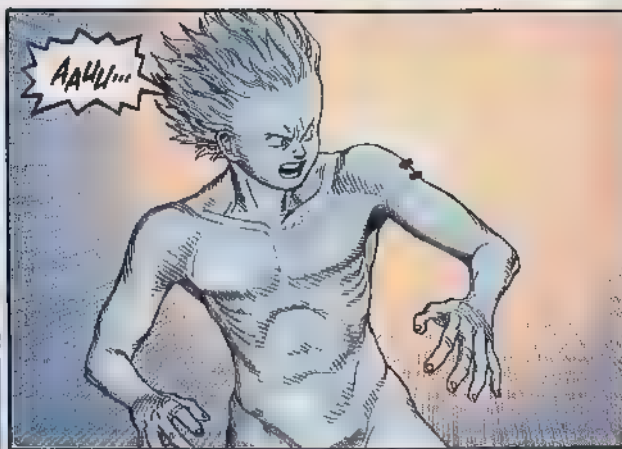
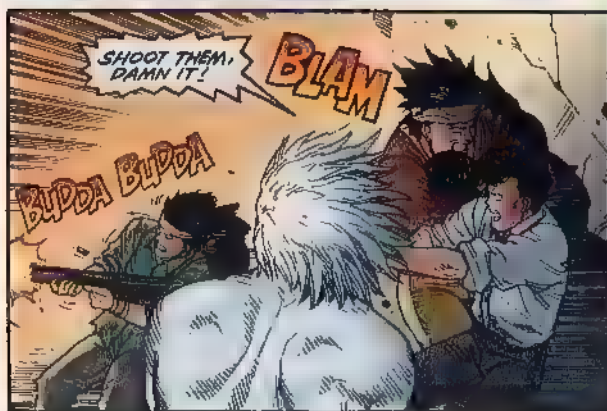
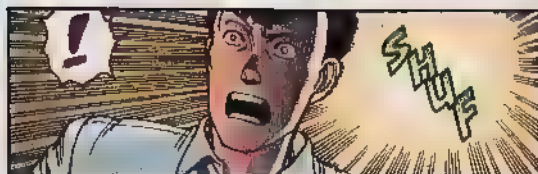
Joker

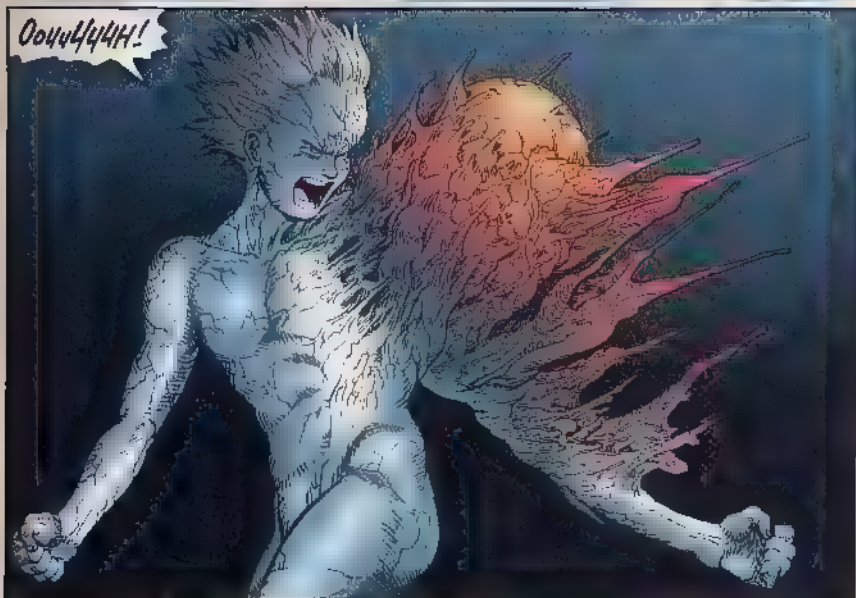
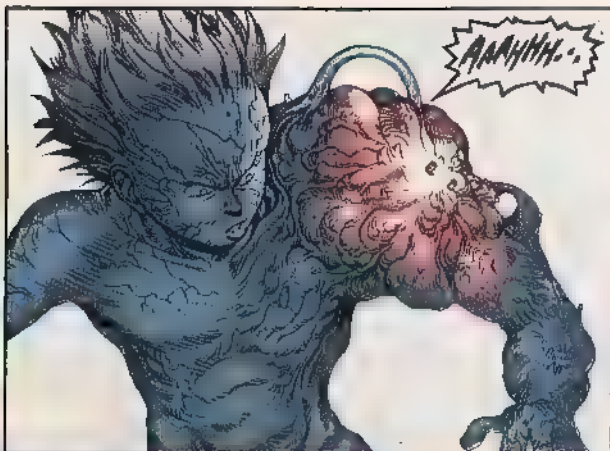


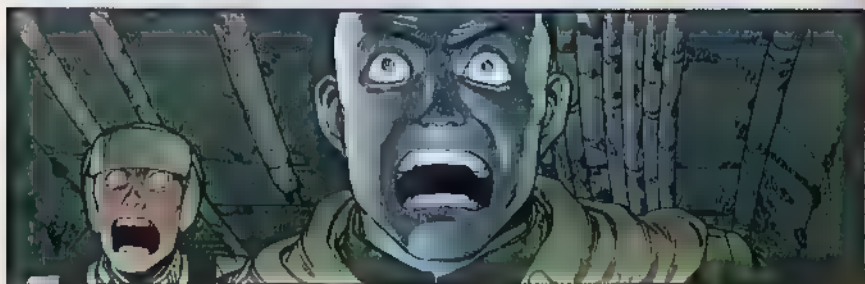
Kai

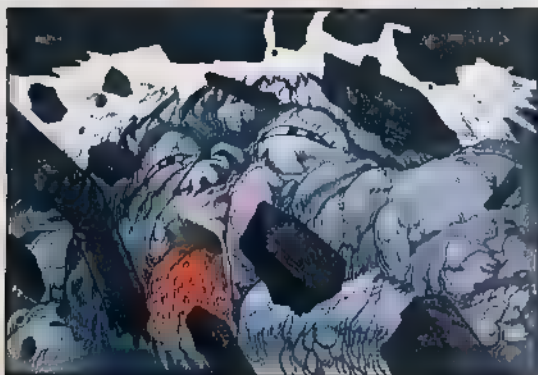
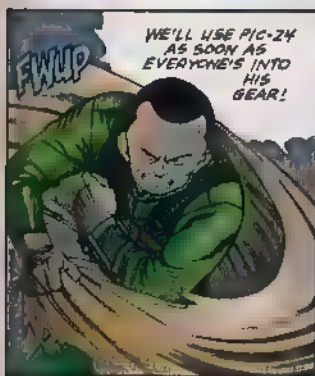


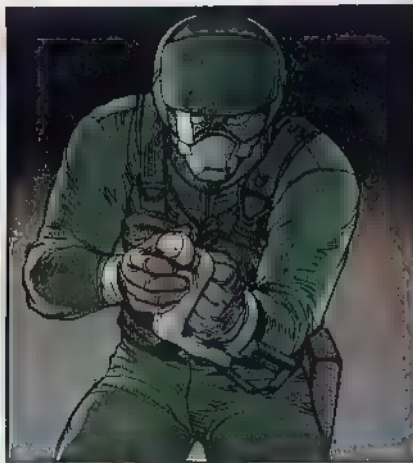
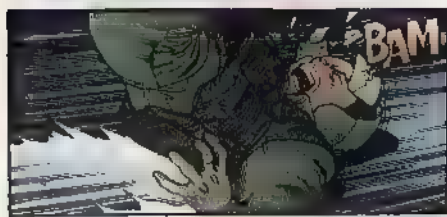
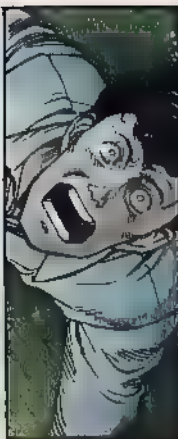


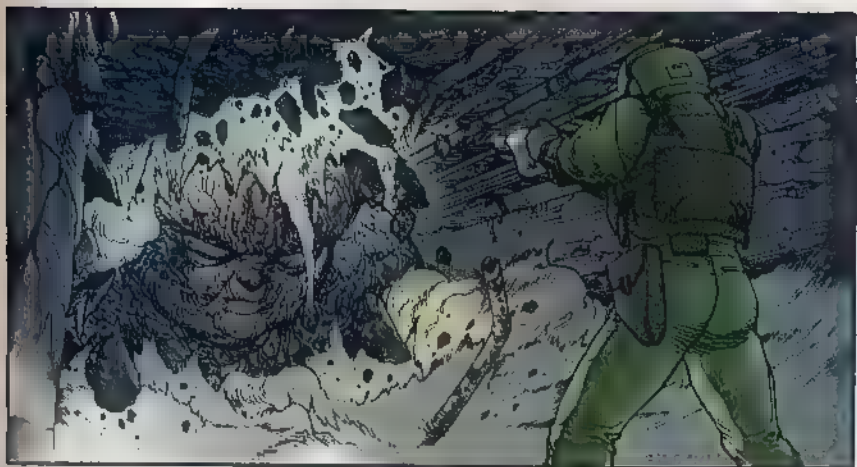


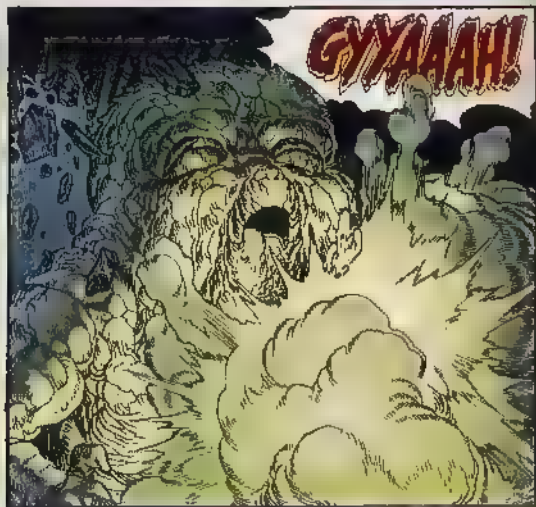
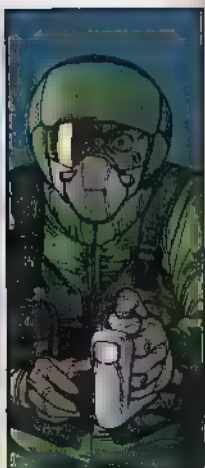
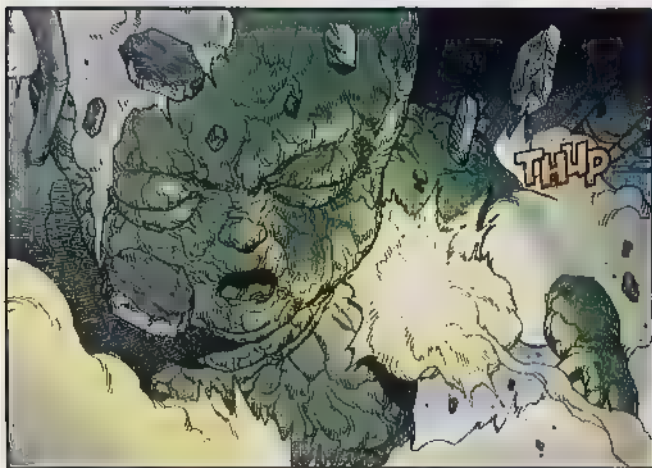


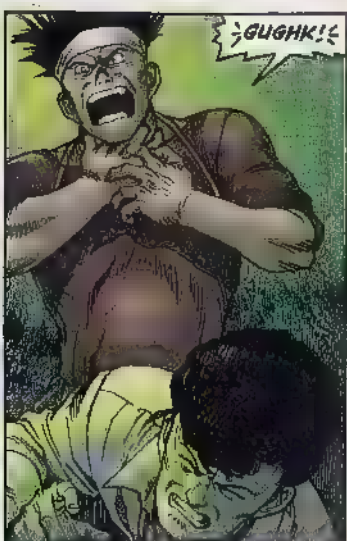
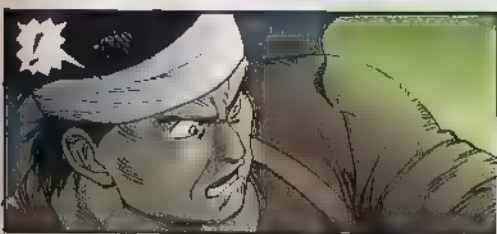
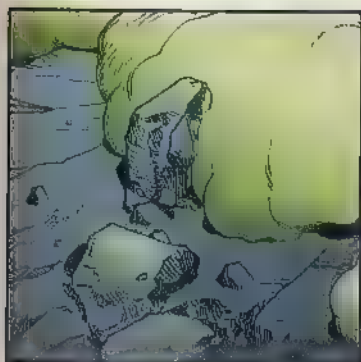


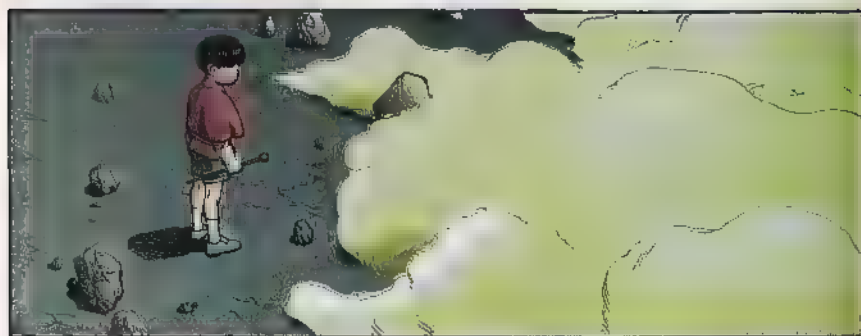
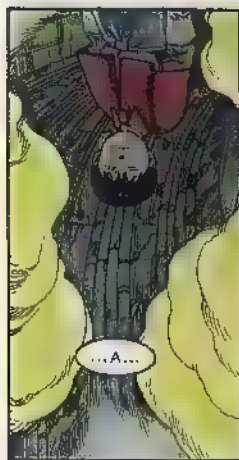
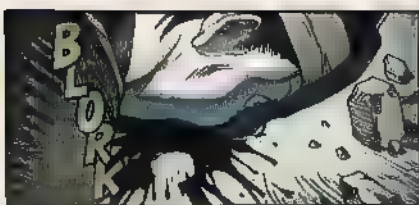


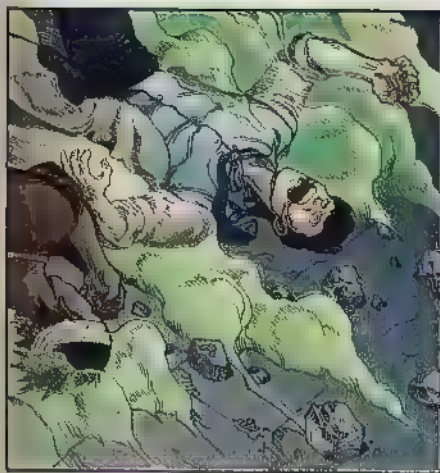
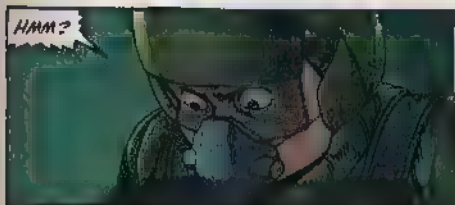


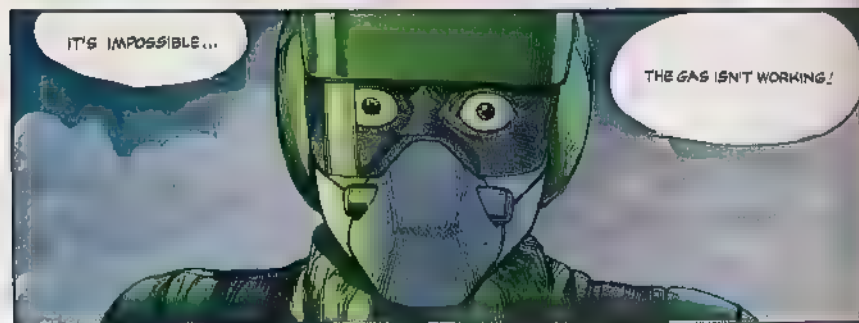
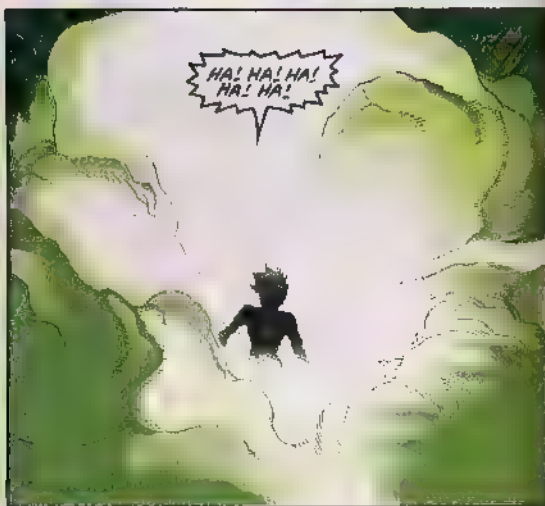


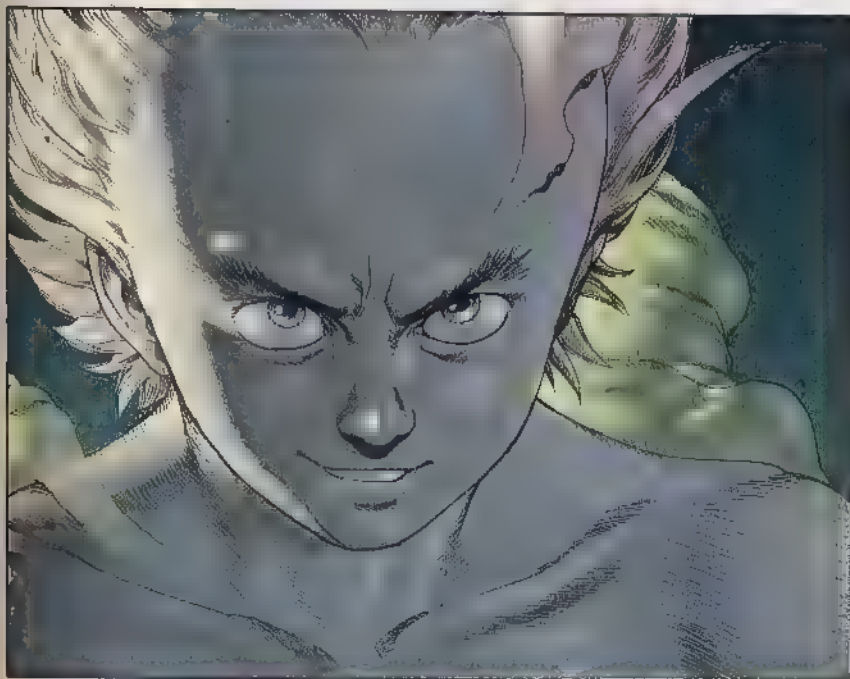
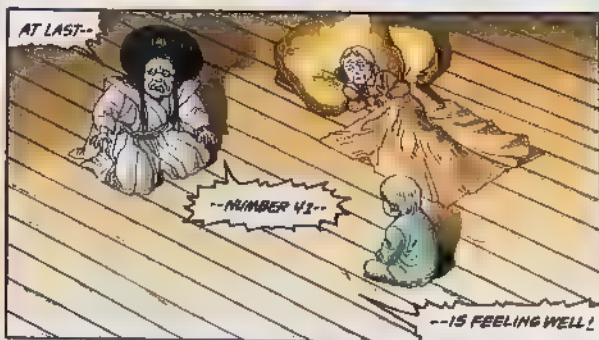
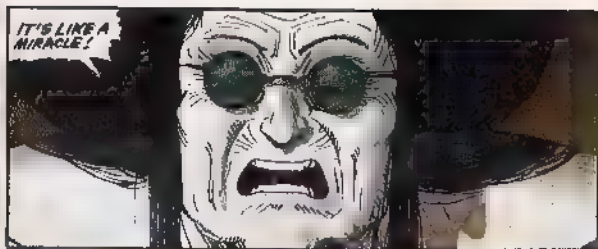
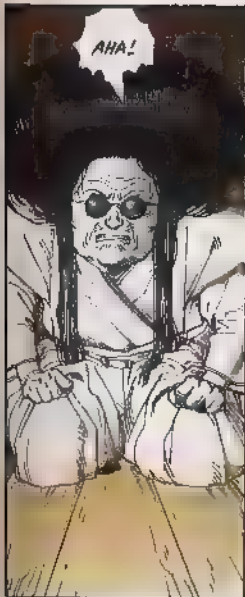


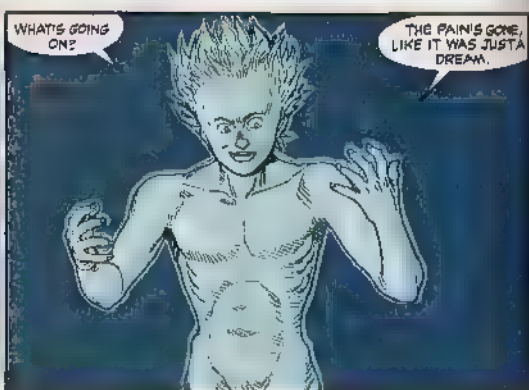
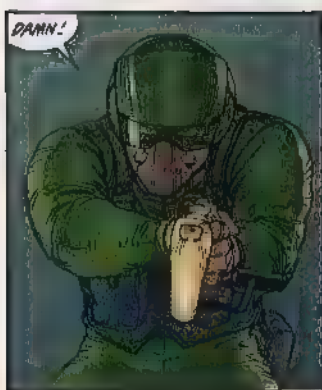
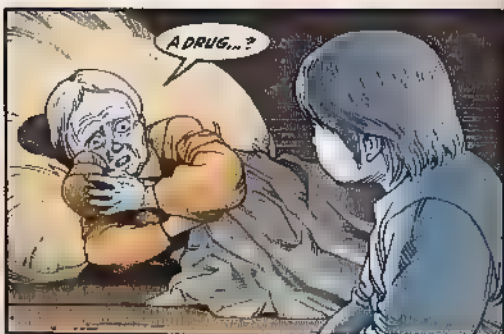
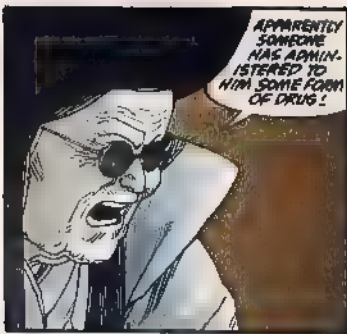


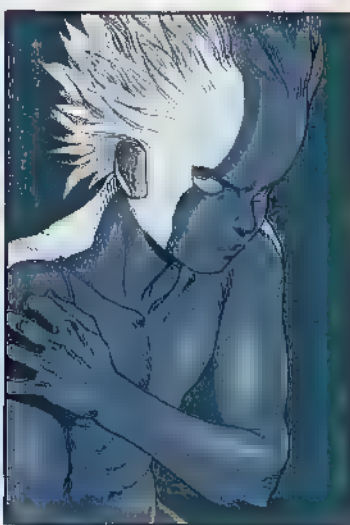
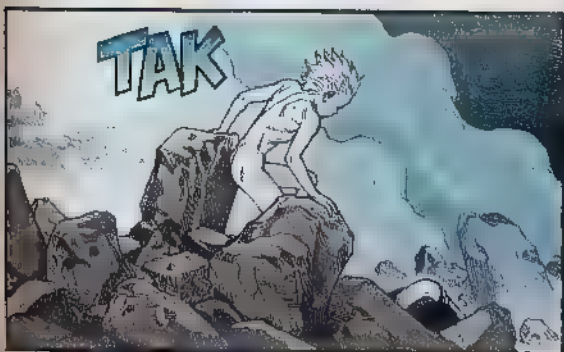
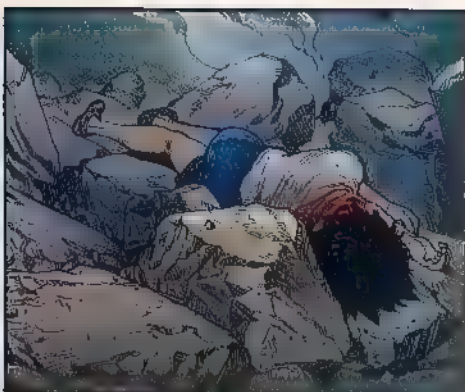


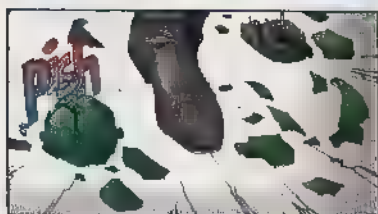
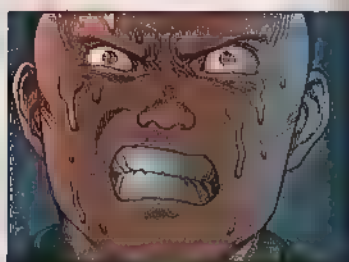


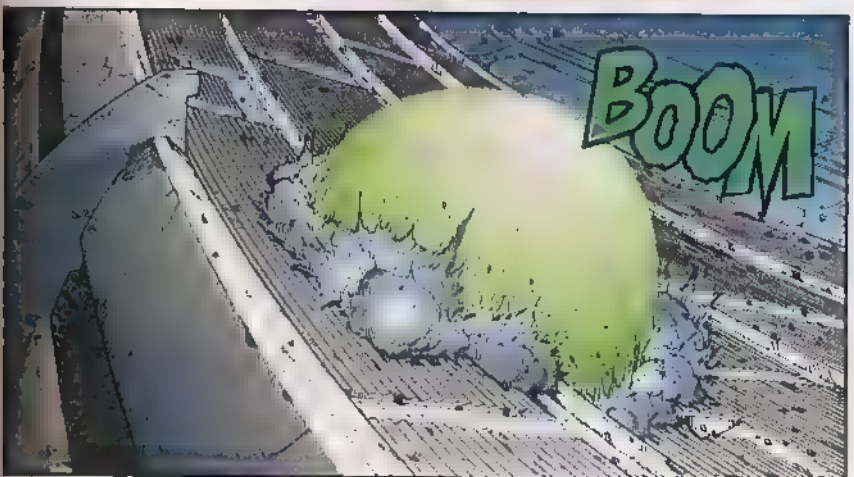
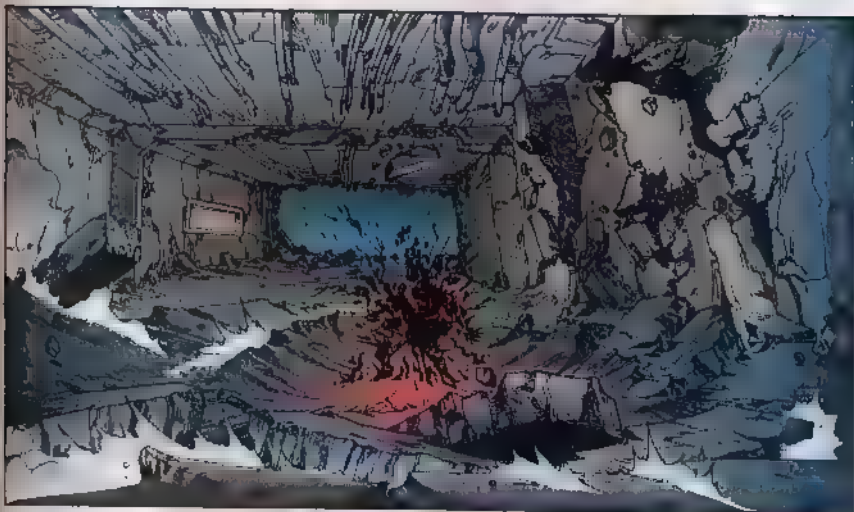
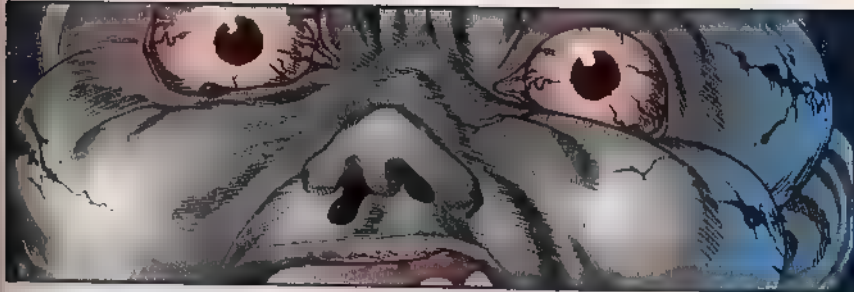




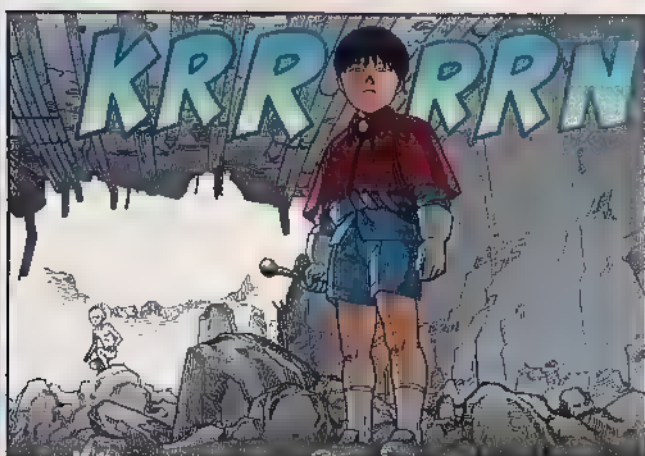
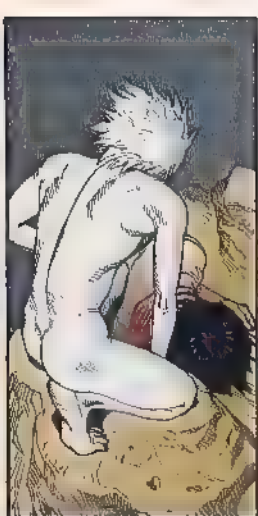


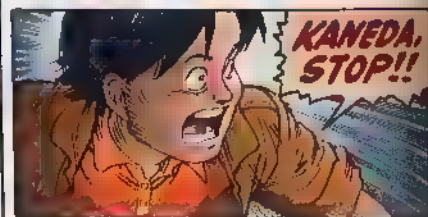
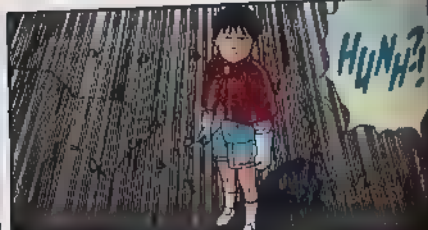
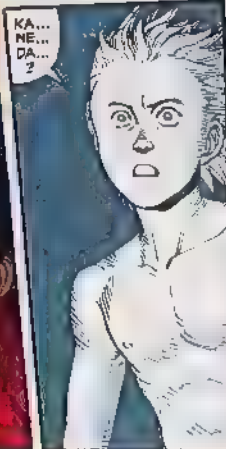
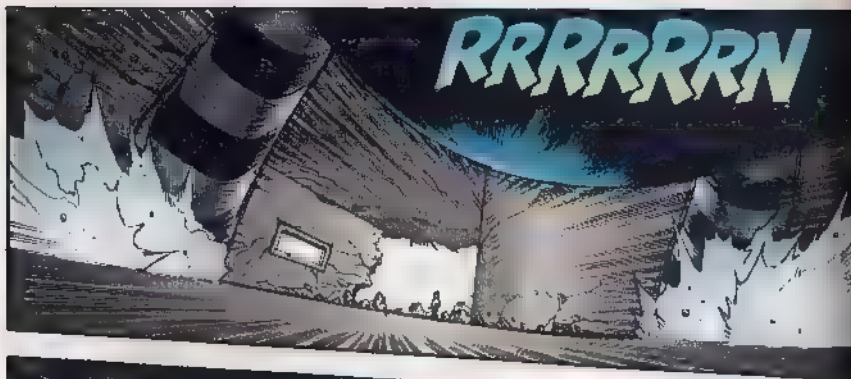




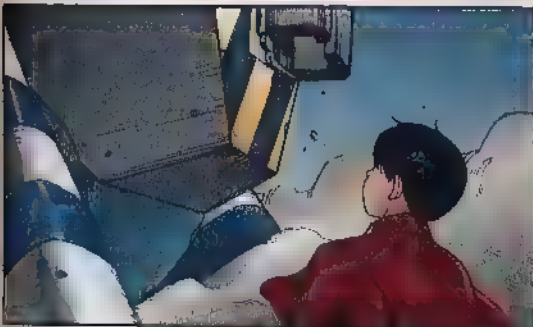
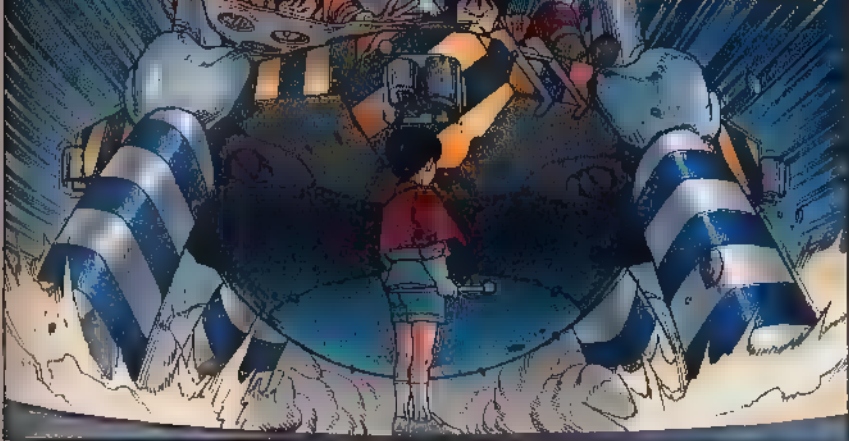


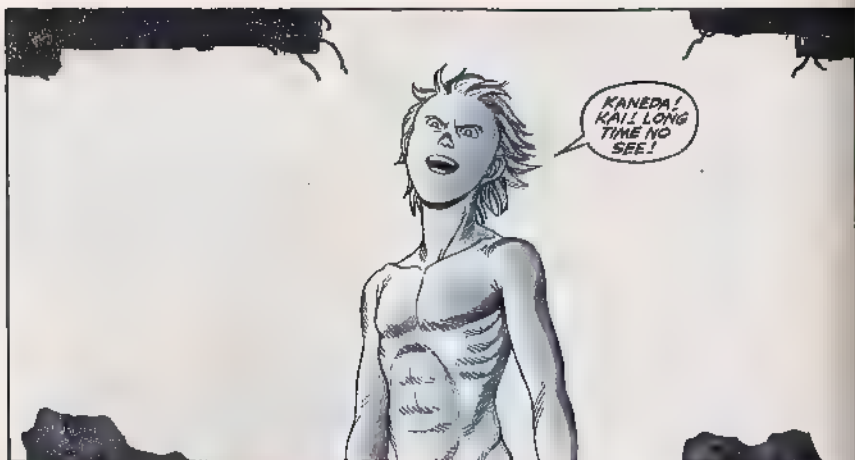






SKR EEEEEEEEE

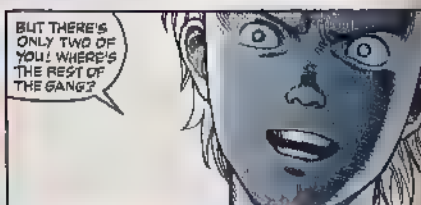




KANEDA!
KAI! LONG
TIME NO
SEE!



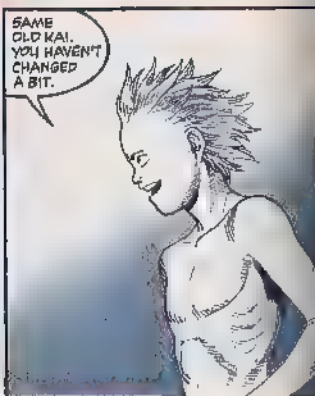
BUT THERE'S
ONLY TWO OF
YOU! WHERE'S
THE REST OF
THE GANG?



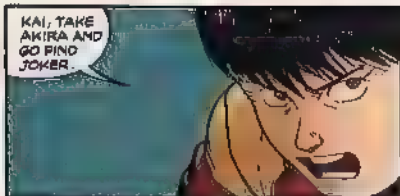
IT'S BEEN A LONG
WHILE, ALL RIGHT. I
NEVER EXPECTED YOU
TO LIVE THIS
LONG.



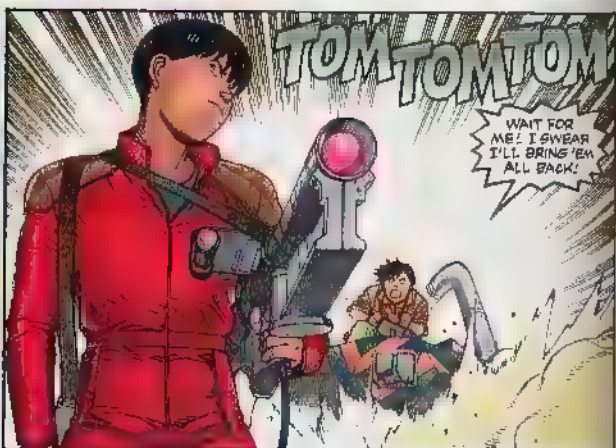
TETSUO, YOU
BASTARD, I'M
NEVER GONNA
FORGIVE YOU!



SAME
OLD KAI.
YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.



AND WHATEVER YOU DO,
DON'T UPSET HIM. OTHER-
WISE HE COULD DESTROY
THE WHOLE WORLD!



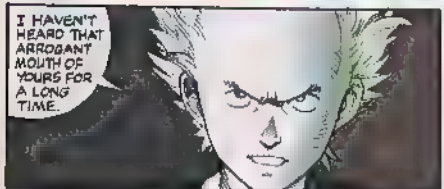
DON'T COUNT
ON HIM LASTING
THAT LONG.



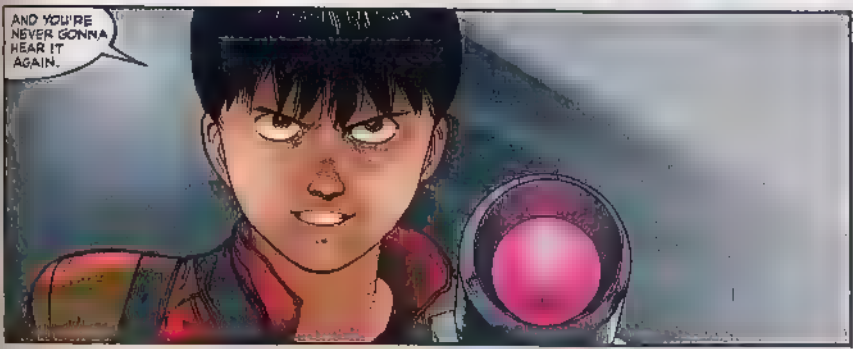
I CAN
TRY.



I HAVEN'T
HEARD THAT
ARROGANT
MOUTH OF
YOURS FOR
A LONG
TIME.



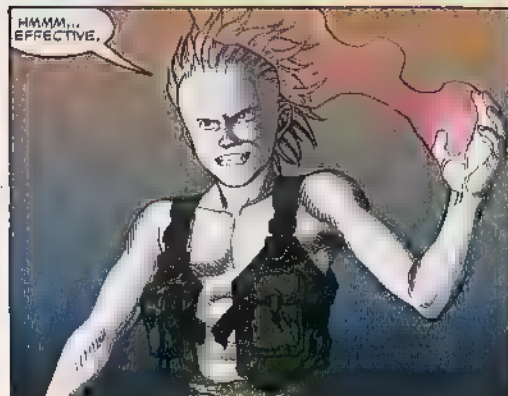
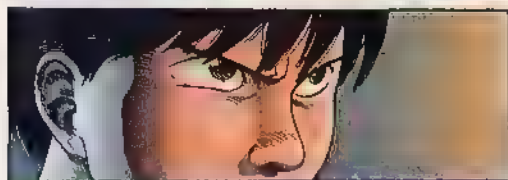
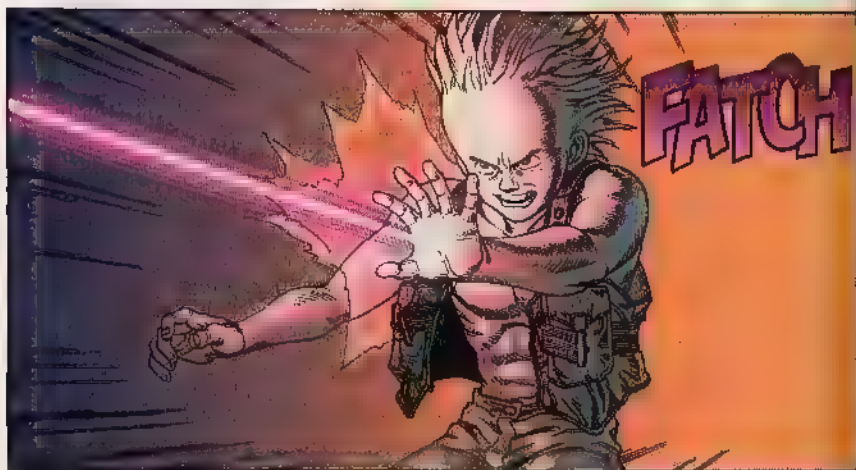
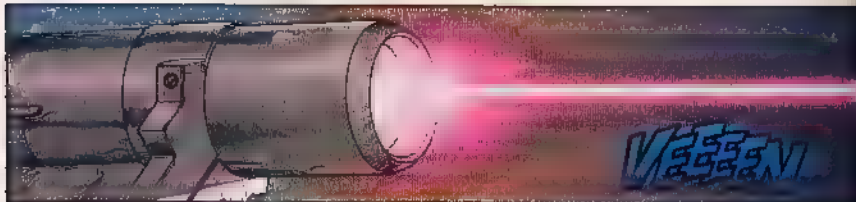
AND YOU'RE
NEVER GONNA
HEAR IT
AGAIN.



YAMAGATA AND
THE OTHERS...

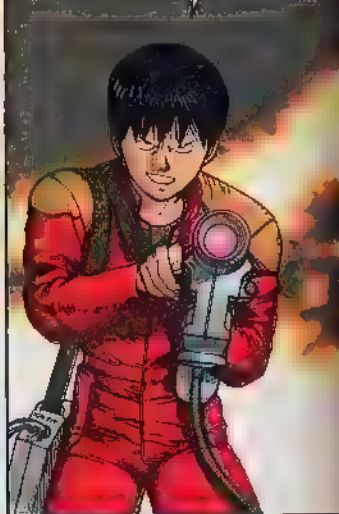
...ARE LINED UP AT
THE GATES OF HELL
WAITING FOR
YOU.





HMMM...
EFFECTIVE.

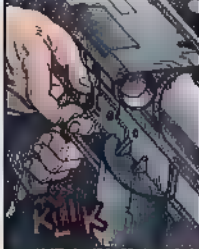
JUST LIKE THE OLD TIMES, HUNK? WHEN WE
RODE MOTORCYCLES WITH THE REST OF THE
GANG?



I DON'T REMEMBER
ANY OLD TIMES
LIKE THAT.



YOU USED TO DRIVE
LIKE A MANIAC, ALWAYS
TRYING TO GET TO THE
HEAD OF THE PACK.



DOESN'T IT TAKE
YOU BACK...?

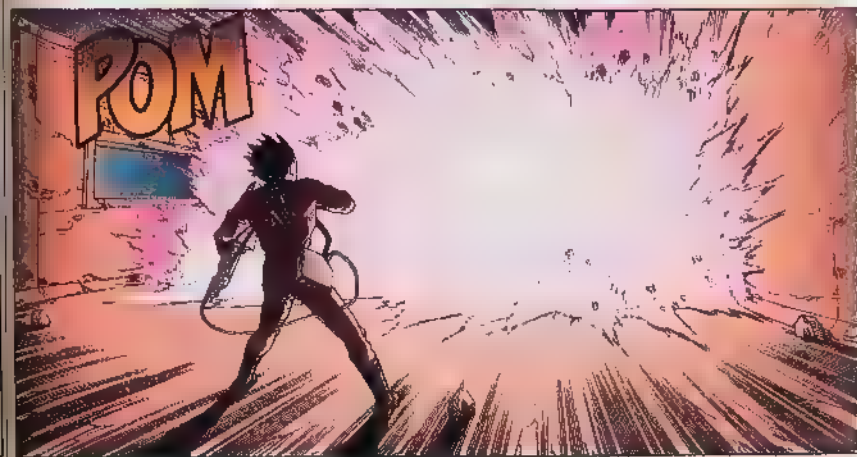


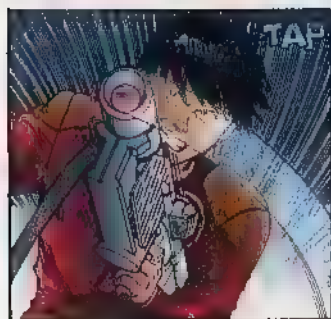
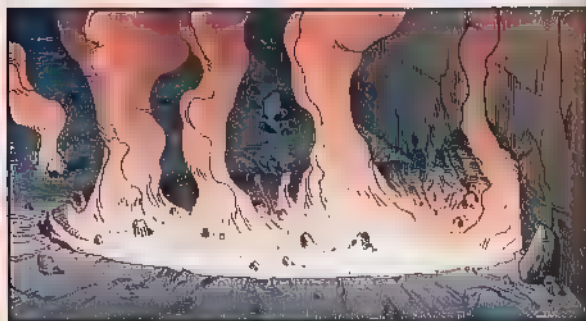
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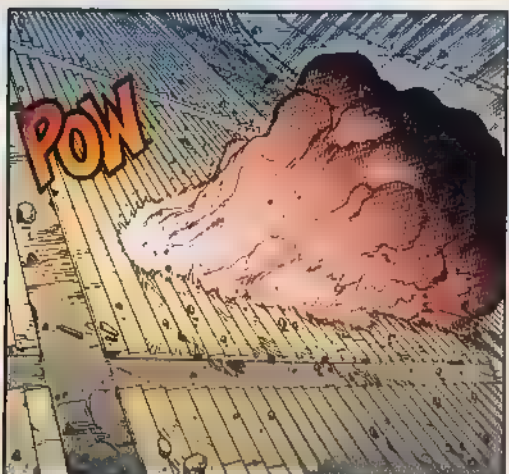
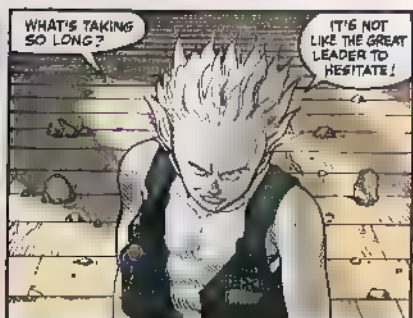
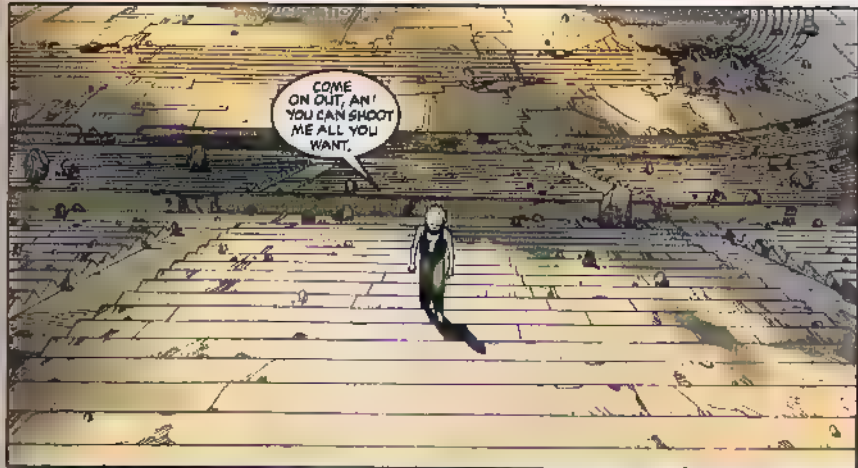
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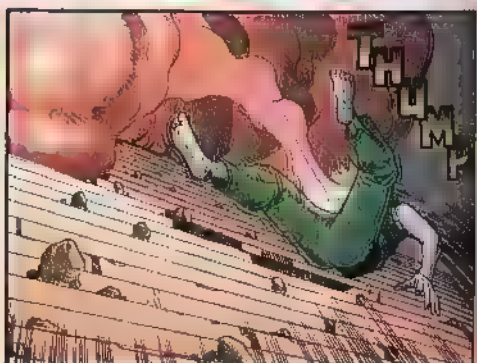
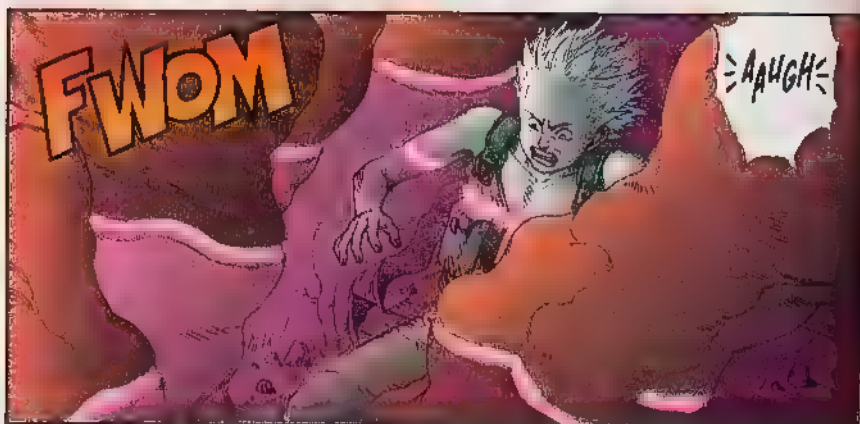
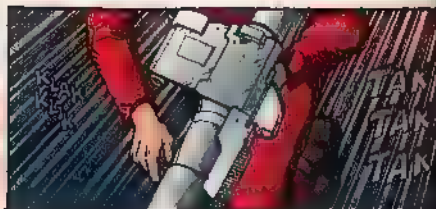
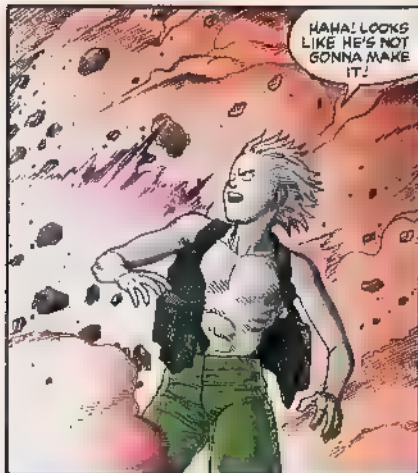


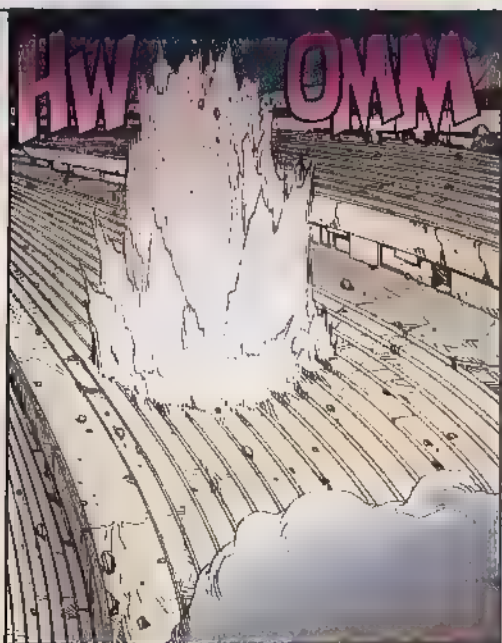
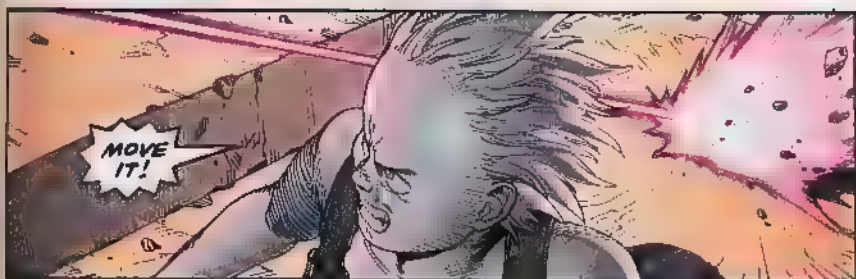
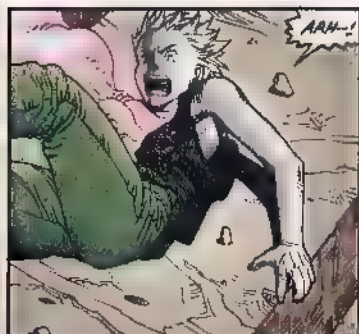
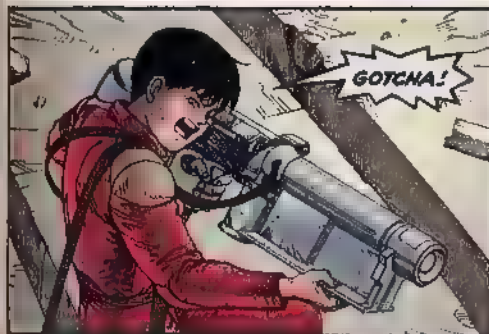
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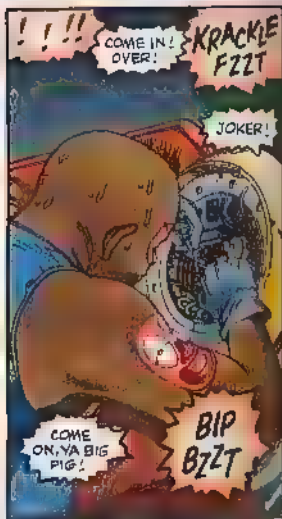
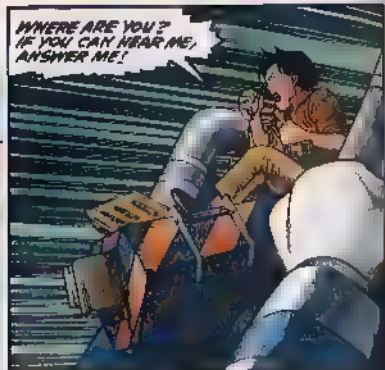
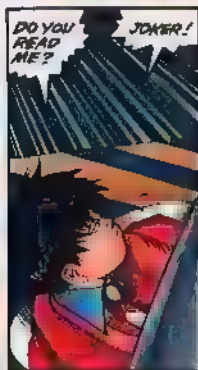


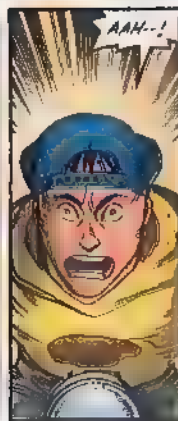
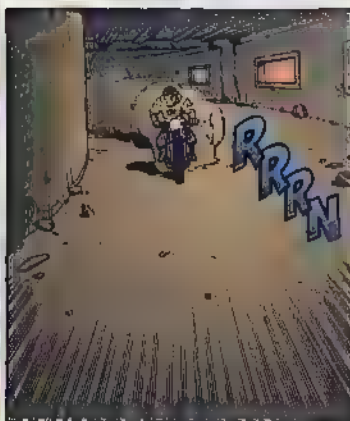
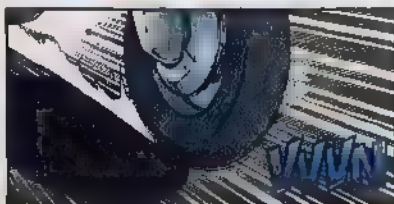
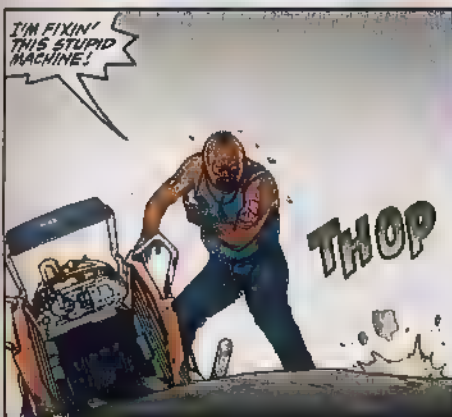
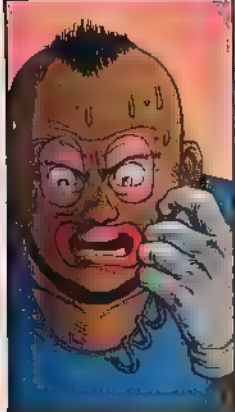


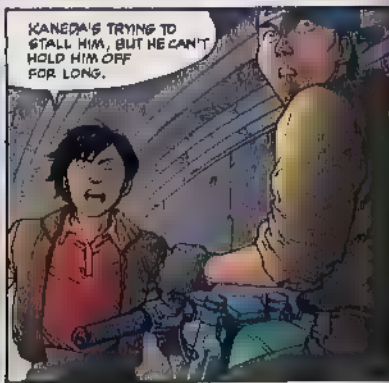
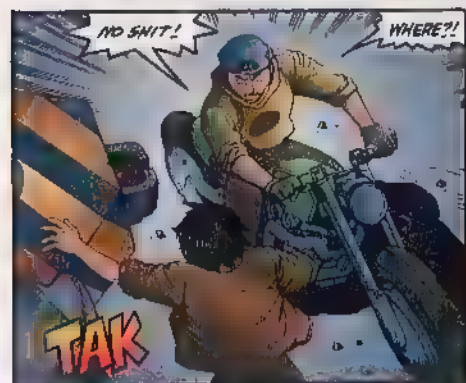
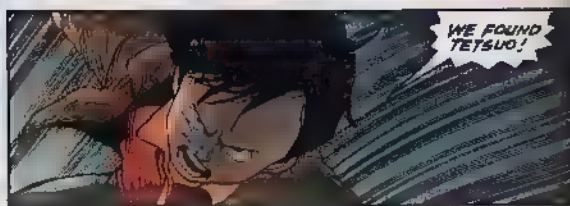
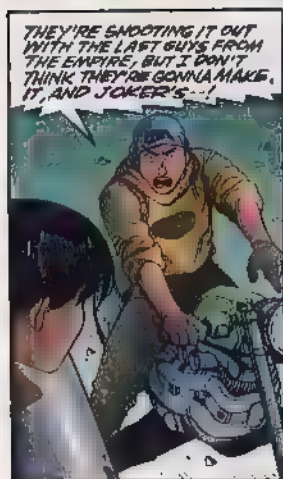
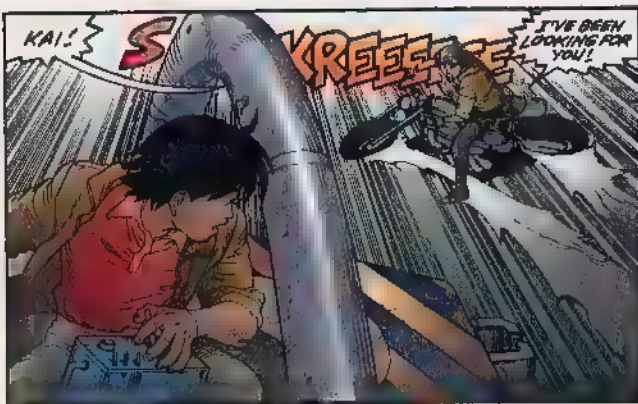




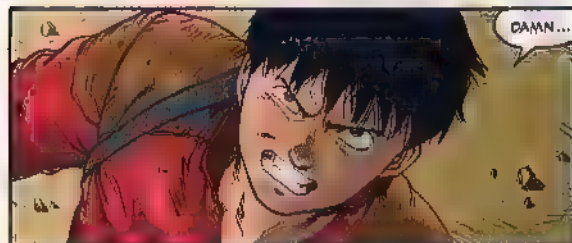
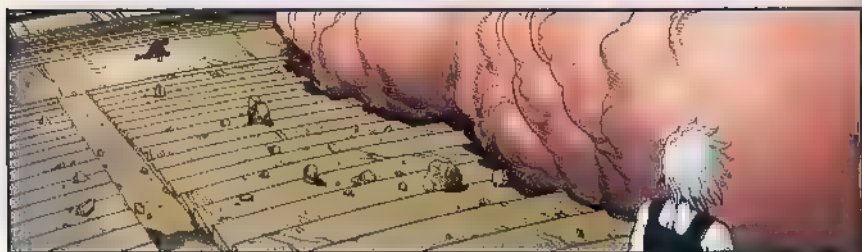
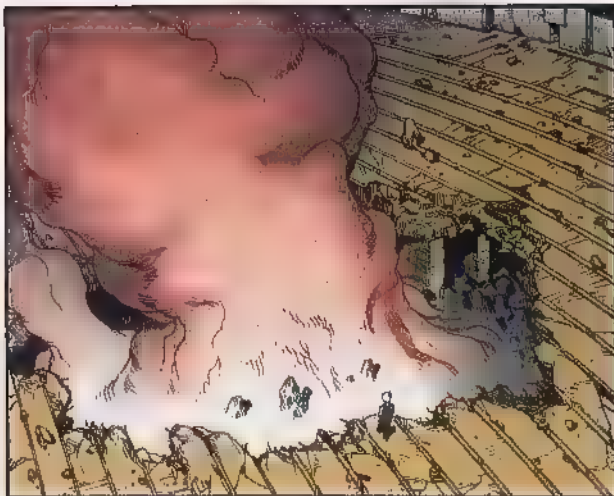


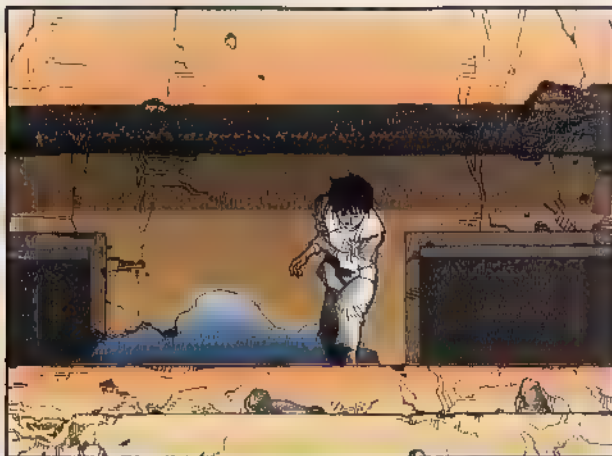
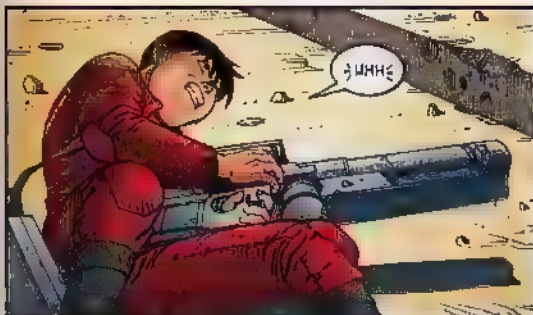


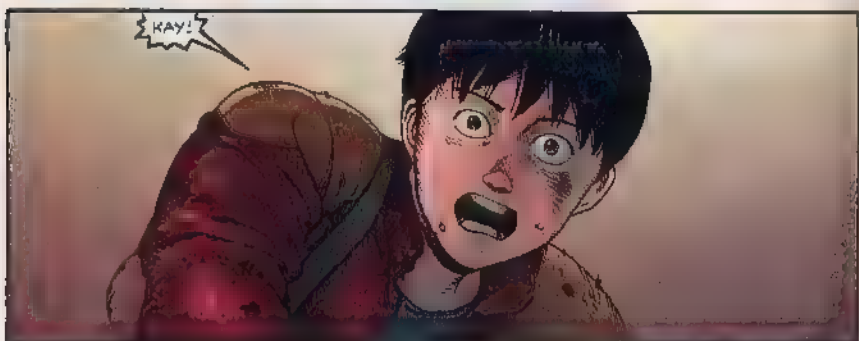
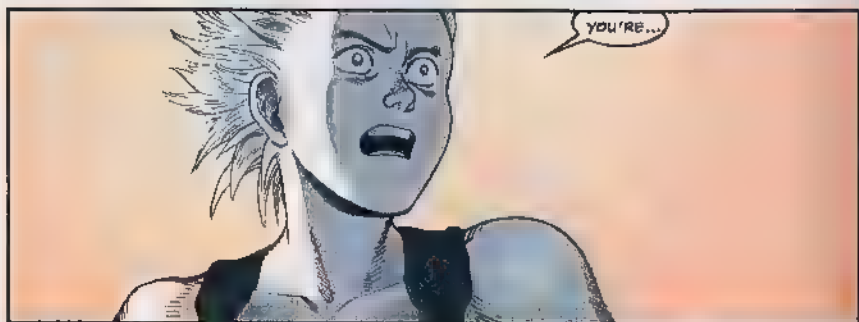


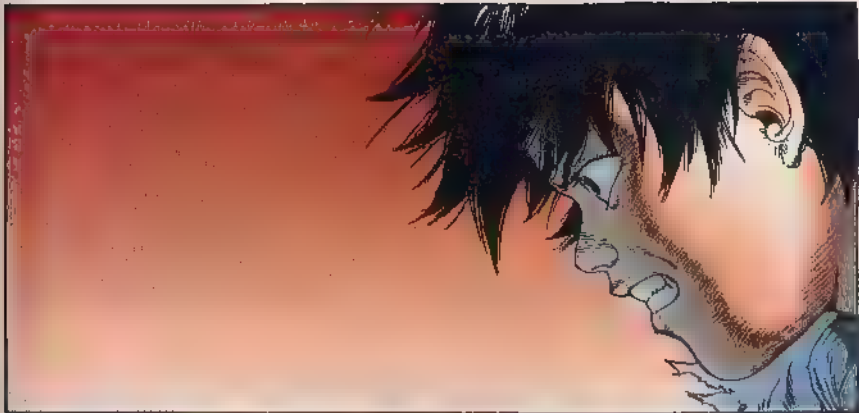




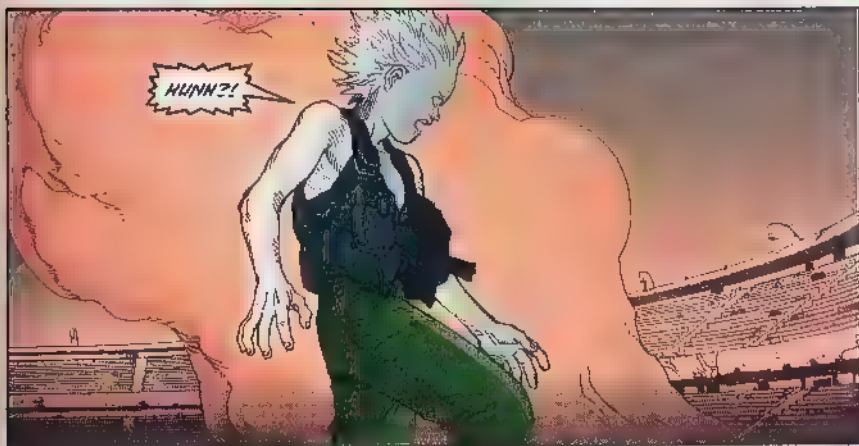




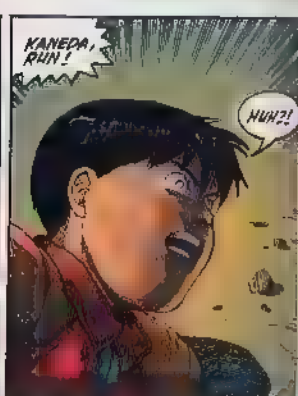
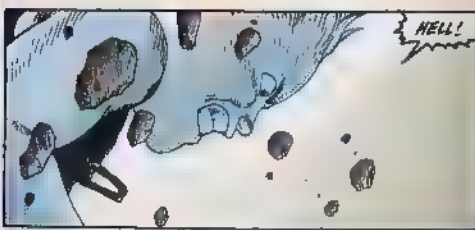
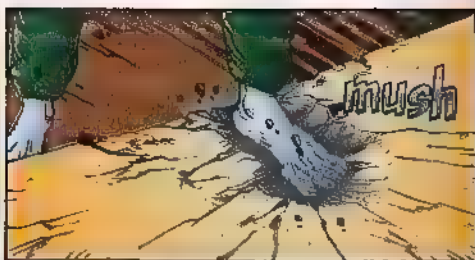


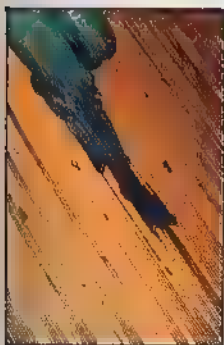
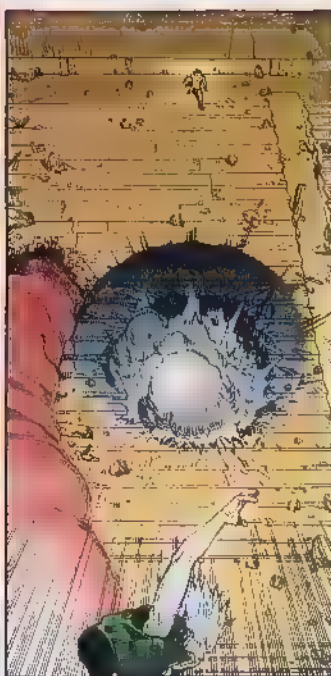
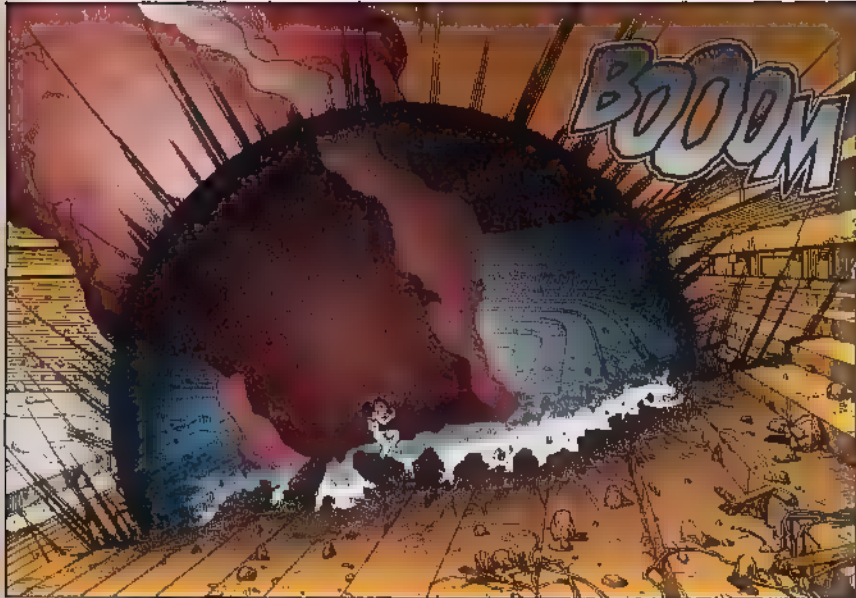


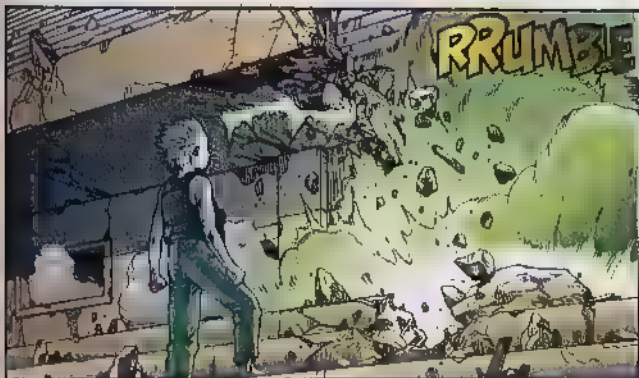
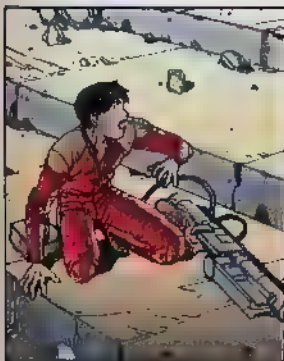
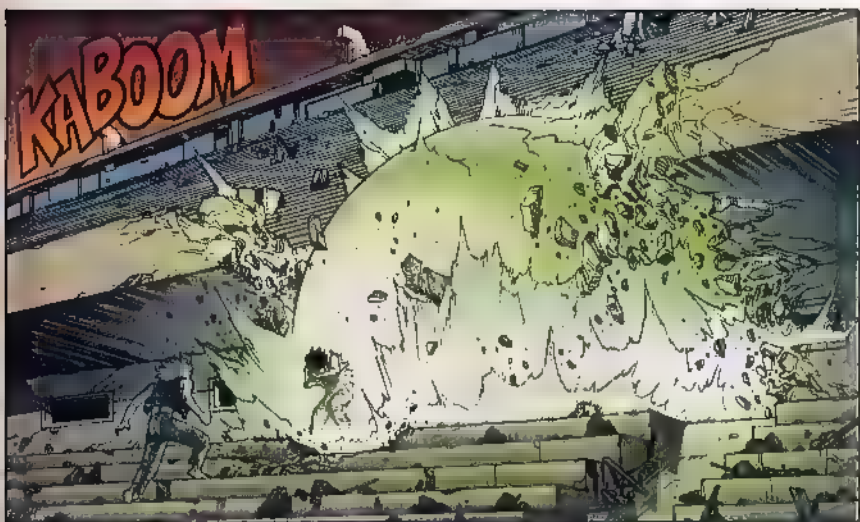
YOU LOOK LIKE
SOMETHING THE
CAT DRAGGED IN...
DEAD ON YOUR
FEET...



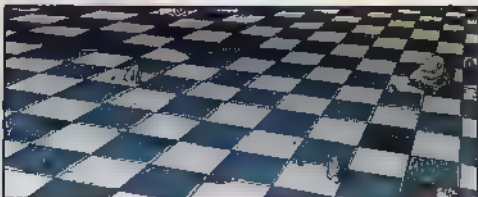
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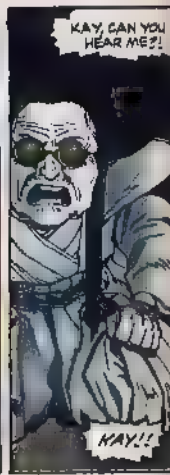
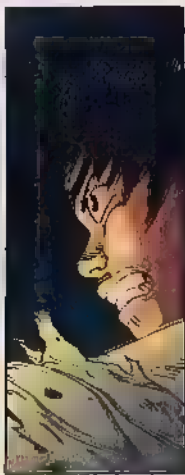
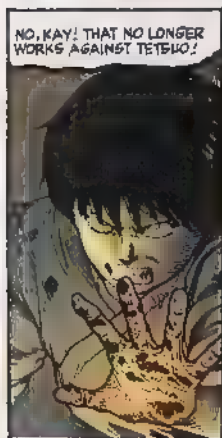
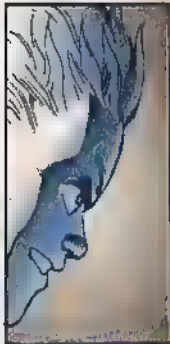


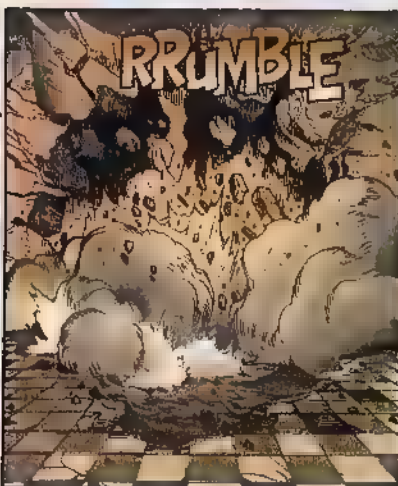
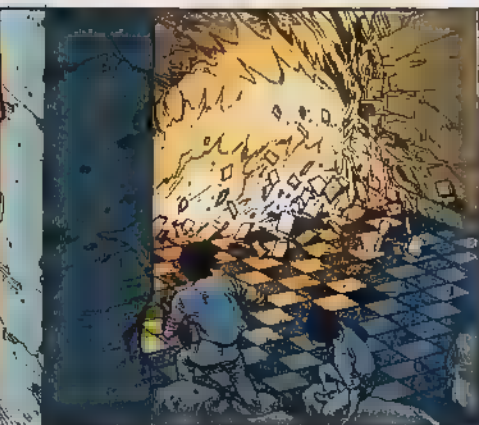
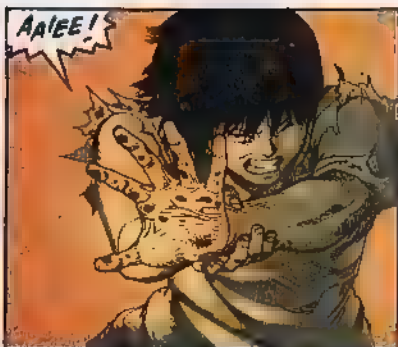


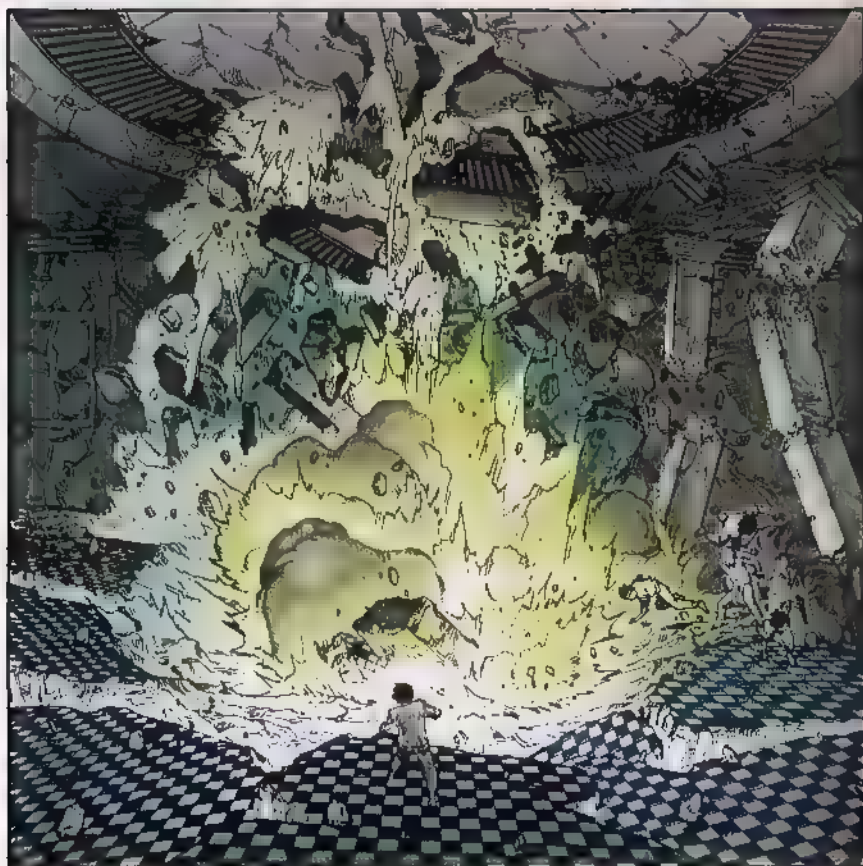
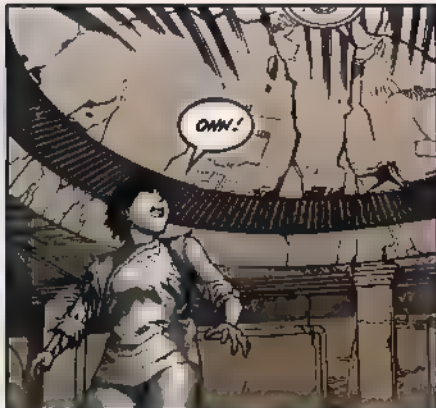


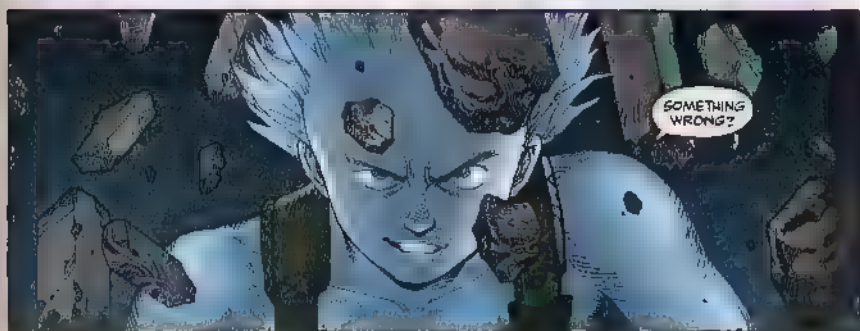
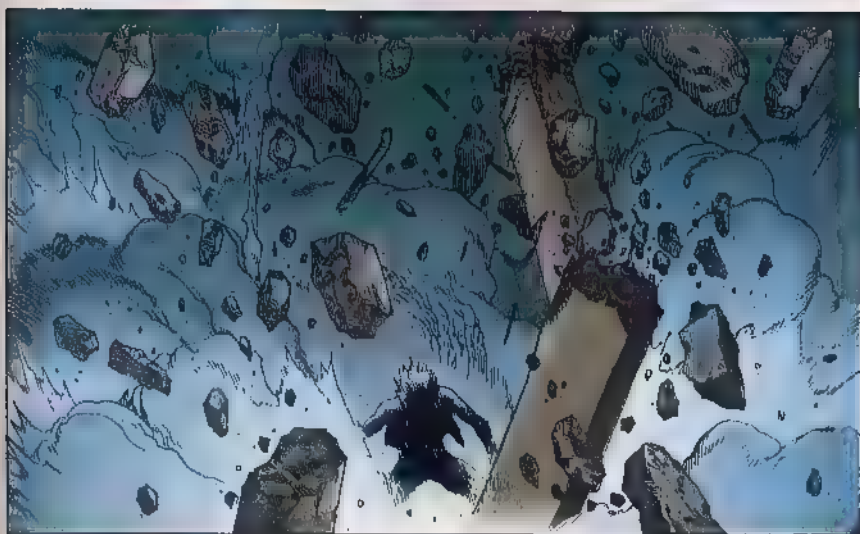
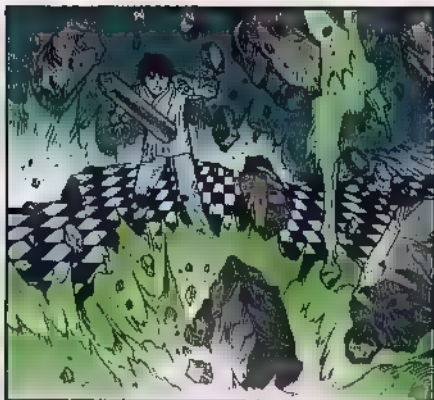


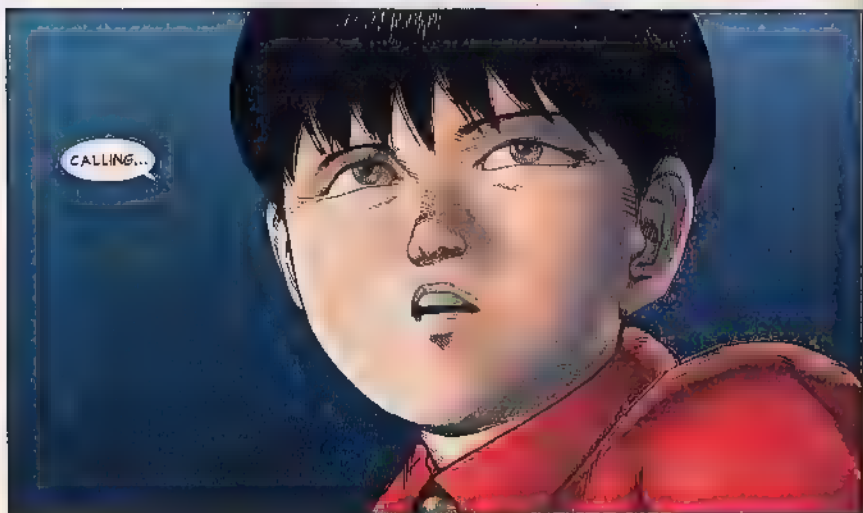


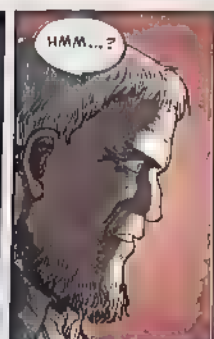
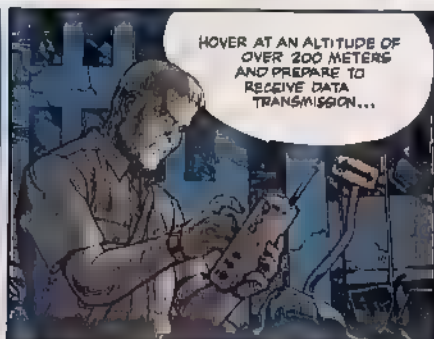
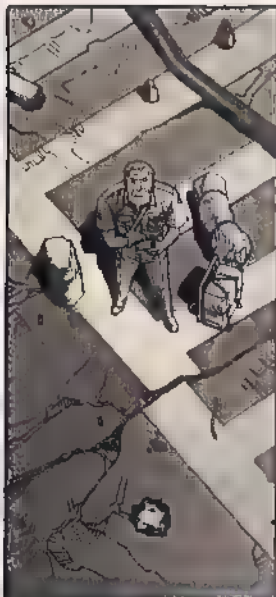


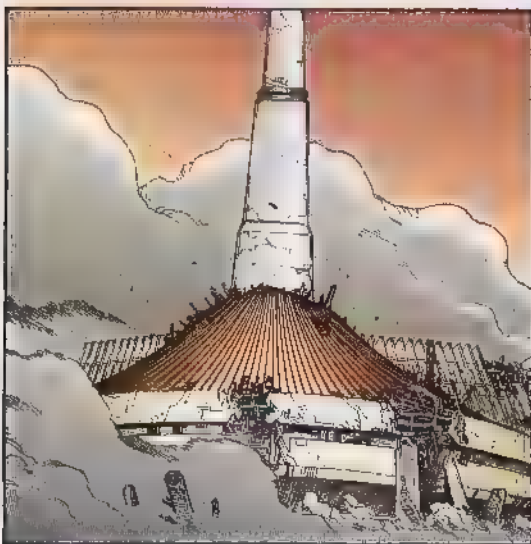
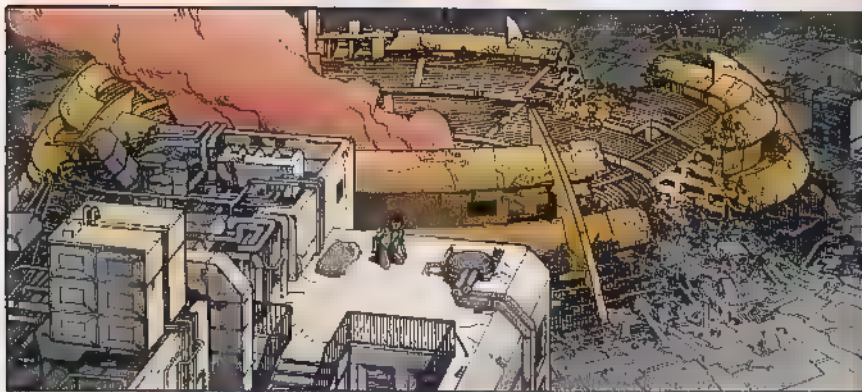


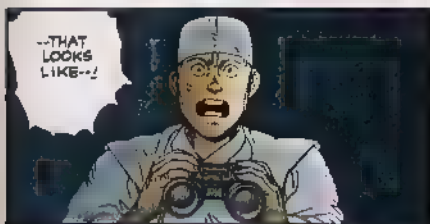
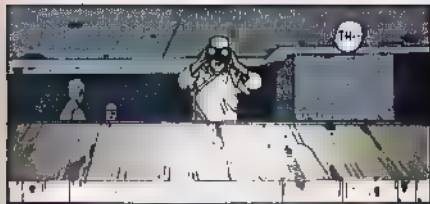


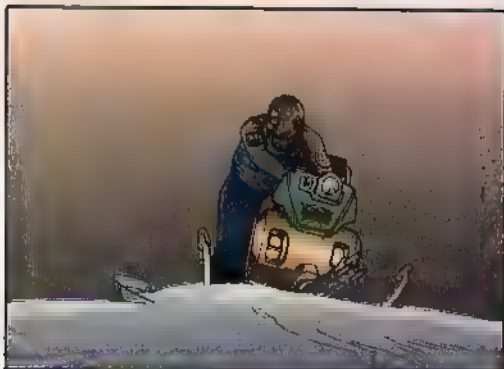


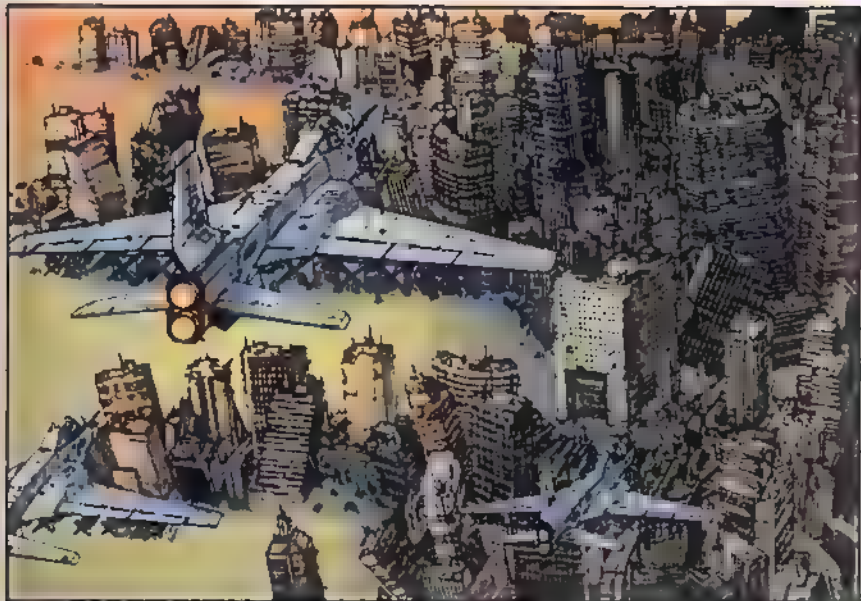


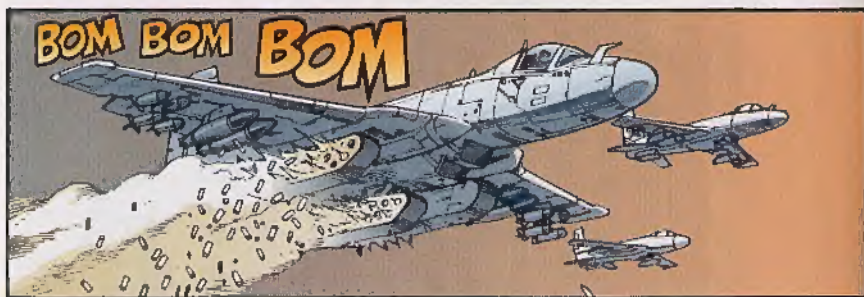












NEXT ISSUE: **STRIKE FROM SPACE**

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MARIE JAVINS

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CAAL POTTS

executive editor

Inside the roiling vapor of a deadly germ warfare cloud, weapons fire ferocious charges of lightning-like destruction, a hi-tech storm warning of the man-made tempest that continues to assail what's left of Neo-Tokyo. It rumbles deep and dark as American troops in bio-chemical warfare suits march ominously through shattered canyons that were once city streets. It flares bright with explosions of raw energy and telekinetic fury, former friends now turned adversaries competing in a most dangerous game of hunter and hunted. And at the storm's center, an eerily composed Tetsuo, his icy calm making him even more sinister.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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